

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 15, 2011

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice Chairman
Michael Pierce, Selectman Representative
Pat Collins
Richard Desrosiers
Brian Lapham
Eileen Latimer
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere
Peter Traynor
Brian Warburton

Vice Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She said this was the annual reorganization meeting for the Budget Committee.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Vice Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee and welcomed new members Richard Desrosiers, Sandra Nickerson and Brian Warburton. She then thanked Larry Stuker, Dick Hansen and Jack Lessard for their service on the Committee.

Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2011

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to approve the Minutes of February 15, 2011.

Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions (Collins, Desrosiers, Nickerson, Warburton). Motion passed.

Vice Chairman Woolsey read a letter from Fred Welch, Town Manager, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, requesting that the Committee sign a Code of Ethics. Ms. Woolsey said it was her personal opinion that if you do not possess ethics, you should not be representing the voters of this community. She said she would assume that every member of this Committee works in good faith and she sees no reason to comply with this request.

Ms. Woolsey expressed deep concern that the voters passed a warrant article for \$50,000 (Article 24) proposed by the Board of Selectmen in 2009 when the economy was very bad for a study to plan for a new fire station on Winnacunnet Road. The beach station had also been added on to this article by amendment made by Selectman Nichols at the Deliberative Session. The Budget Committee said many times that the plan for the fire stations had its strong support and that the leadership of the Board of Selectmen was critical. Ms. Woolsey

said she did not feel this leadership happened and \$50,000 was basically wasted. Ms. Woolsey also expressed concern regarding the selection of the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen at their March 14th meeting.

Reorganization

Ms. Woolsey asked for nominations for Chairman for the coming year.

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to appoint Eileen Latimer as Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the 2011-2012 year.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Latimer). Motion passed.

Ms. Latimer took over the meeting as Chairman.

Chairman Latimer then asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to appoint Mary-Louise Woolsey as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the 2011-2012 year.

Moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to appoint Michael Plouffe as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the 2011-2012 year.

Moved by Mr. Reniere, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to appoint Brian Warburton as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the 2011-2012 year.

Vote: Mary-Louise Woolsey	5
Michael Plouffe	3
Brian Warburton	1

Mary-Louise Woolsey was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey stated the following:

The Hampton Municipal Budget Committee on this date declares a member-at-large seat to have been vacated by the election of Michael Pierce to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Pierce was duly sworn in as a member of the Board on March 14.

According to our authority under Chapter 32, Municipal Budget Law, RSA 32:15 VII –

“In municipalities where members-at-large are elected, vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Budget Committee. Persons appointed to fill vacancies shall serve until

the next annual meeting at which time a successor shall be elected or appointed to either fill the unexpired term or start a new term, as the case may be.”

Moved by Vice-Chairman Woolsey, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, that this Committee appoint Dustin Marzinzik, runner up in the selectmen contest on the annual warrant, to fill the position vacated by Mr. Pierce. This appointment will be effective until the next annual meeting balloting on March 13, 2012.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer said she is looking for a year where everyone is interactive. She passed out copies of the Municipal Budget Law to the Committee members.

Chairman Latimer then asked for discussion on the Committee’s signing of the Code of Ethics requested by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Collins said he didn’t feel it was necessary to sign it, but would if the Committee agreed to do so. Mr. Reniere said he took an oath of office when elected and feels that is sufficient. Mr. Warburton agreed with Mr. Reniere and said ethics is inherent in the oath of office.

Mr. Desrosiers said as Chairman of the Energy Committee he was presented with this request and their committee agreed to sign it. Chairman Latimer said the difference is that the Budget Committee is an autonomous elected board. Mr. Pierce said he saw no reason not to sign.

Ms. Nickerson said she would like to read this request first before making a decision and vote at a later date.

Moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, that the Budget Committee request the Board of Selectmen to forward to the Committee members the Code of Ethics document they have asked the Committee to sign. The Committee will review this document and vote on signing at a later date.

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer discussed the Education Sub-Committee and said the result was a more educated Budget Committee. She said she would like to see members assigned to that sub-committee and other sub-committees as follows:

Administration

Pat Collins, Chairman
Dick Desrosiers
Brian Lapham
Richard Reniere

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Safety (Police & Fire)

Richard Reniere, Chairman
Pat Collins
Brian Lapham
Peter Traynor
Brian Warburton

Education

Peter Traynor, Chairman
Dick Desrosiers
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson

Public Works

Michael Plouffe, Chairman
Dustin Marzinzik
Sandra Nickerson
Mary-Louise Woolsey
Brian Warburton

Chairman Latimer requested that each Committee submit a report at the monthly meeting.

Ms. Latimer discussed member absences from meetings. Four unexcused absences will result in dismissal for members-at-large. She encouraged the Selectmen, School Board and Precinct representatives to attend all meetings.

Chairman Latimer discussed the number of warrant articles on the ballot and said she felt many of them should be included in the operating budget.

Mr. Warburton commented on the CIP Committee and said it is not what it used to be. The original format noted those projects that should be in a warrant article rather than in the operating budget. Chairman Latimer said she would talk to the Planning Board regarding the CIP Committee and asked Mr. Pierce to discuss with this with the Selectmen.

The number of warrant articles was discussed. The consensus of the Committee was that there were many articles on the ballot that should have been included in the operating budget. The point was made that there are other articles that must remain as such to ensure they will be funded.

Mr. Lapham said the public needs to be informed of exactly what is spent each year.

Chairman Latimer said she will ask DPW for a list of streets in need of repair and how they are prioritized.

Chairman Latimer asked Mr. Pierce to bring back exact dates regarding the 18-month budget which will change the fiscal year.

Mr. Reniere left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said the Committee should talk to the Planning Board regarding impact fees. She said monthly printouts showing reserve and unreserved fund balances should be provided to the Committee.

Chairman Latimer said she will contact the Trustees of the Trust Fund and request a quarterly report. She said she will request from the Board of Selectmen a report showing line items running in the red and which line covered them.

Mr. Collins left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey reminded everyone that the Beach Precinct Annual Meeting will take place on Friday, March 25, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the Beach Fire Station.

The Committee extended their congratulations to the Winnacunnet High School Girls Basketball Team for their achievements.

Mr. Warburton gave accolades to John Nickerson and the cable people who film for Channel 22.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Vice-Chairman Woolsey **moved**, seconded by Mr. Warburton, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Eileen Latimer, Chairman